

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document submitted December 17, 2001.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 27, 2004.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-21 and 24-35 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 30-35 are hereby added, and as claims 22 and 23 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-29 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. While Applicants respectfully submit that the concept of “resetting” information indicating the number of times that the first information pieces have been output to a terminal (*i.e.*, initializing the information to zero) is fully supported by pages 43 and 44 of the Application, Applicants hereby amend claims 24-27 in a clarifying manner to recite this concept in language more similar to that of the specification itself (*i.e.*, “initializes”). Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): (1) claim 22 as being unpatentable over *Fukuda* (US 6,469,239; hereinafter “*Fukuda*”) in view of *Doi et al.* (US 5,887,130;

hereinafter “*Doi*”); (2) claim 28 as being unpatentable over *Fukuda* in view of *Ginter et al.* (US 6,640,304; hereinafter “*Ginter*”); (3) claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 as being unpatentable over *Fukuda* in view of *Doi* and *Ginter*; (4) claim 23 as being unpatentable over *Fukuda* in view of *Doi* and *Kawashima et al* (US 5,542,072; hereinafter “*Kawashima*”); and (5) claims 2, 4, 6-10, 12-21 and 29 as being unpatentable over *Fukuda* in view of *Doi*, *Ginter* and *Kawashima*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 28

The Examiner has taken the position that all of the features of independent claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 28 are discussed by various combinations of *Fukuda*, *Doi*, *Ginter* and *Kawashima*. Regarding each of these claims, the Examiner takes the position, *inter alia*, (e.g., O.A., pg. 6) that *Ginter* discloses:

secure transaction management and electronic rights protection (see abstract), in which ... batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory (see column 285, lines 1-9; col. 289, lines 58-67; column 290, lines 1-2).

and therefore alleges that *Ginter* discloses the “batch information section” recited in claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and the “batch information” recited in claim 28.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that *Ginter* fails to teach or suggest “a batch information section that stores batch information that identifies the first information pieces and attributes of the first information pieces stored in the storage section,” (claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) or “batch information that identifies all of the first information pieces stored in the at least one memory” (claim 28).

Specifically, *Ginter* only discloses reporting a usage of a document to an originator (col. 285, lines 1-8) and a batch transmission of information (col. 289, line 58 - col. 290, line 2) in the

portions cited by the Examiner. Neither reporting or transmitting data can reasonably be read as “storing” batch information, such as is recited in the independent claims.

The remaining references, *Fukuda*, *Doi*, and *Kawashima* are silent regarding these features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 28 are patentable over the applied references. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that rejected dependent claims 3-6, 8, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are allowable, *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 30-35 are hereby added. Claims 30-32 and 33-35 are similar to claims 25-27, but are dependent from claims 3 and 4, respectively. Claims 30-35 are fully supported *at least* for the same reasons as claims 25-27, and are respectfully submitted to be allowable both by virtue of their dependency, and by virtue of the features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21 and 24-35 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-21 and 24-35.

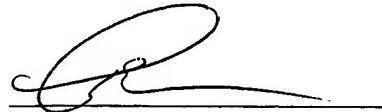
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111
US Appln No.: 10/015,566

Docket No. Q67757

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen
Registration No. 50,855

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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